

The Library Assistant :

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The **Second Annual Meeting** of the South Coast Branch will be held on **Wednesday, July 8th**. If the weather is favourable a picnic will be arranged at Salvington, near Worthing, the birth-place of the famous jurist, John Selden, following which the meeting will take place. Should the weather be unsuitable, the meeting will be held at Worthing Public Library.

A convenient train from Brighton is the 3.6 p.m., by which cheap tickets are issued at the reduced rate of 1s. 2d. return, obtainable at the Booking Office, Brighton Central Station.

PROGRAMME.

3.30 p.m. Meet at Worthing Railway Station, and walk to Salvington.

4.30 p.m. Picnic tea.

5.45 p.m. Committee meeting.

6.30 p.m. Annual Business Meeting, and Paper on "Rudyard Kipling: the man and his critics," by Miss M. M. BARNETT, Brighton Public Library.

Those members intending to be present are asked to notify the Hon. Secretary not later than Saturday, July 4th.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor.—Members will be very pleased to learn that Mr. H. G. Sureties expected to resume duty on the 30th June. The Hon. Editor has been staying at Ilfracombe for the past few weeks, and is now almost restored to health. We take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Sureties on his elevation to the Vice-Presidency.

The Annual Meeting.—Nothing but praise can be rendered to the members of the Yorkshire Branch for the magnificent reception they gave to us at Leeds. Members will find a report of the proceedings issued with this number, but

the writer of it is only too well aware of how far short it falls of anything like an adequate record. Only those who were privileged to be present can measure the large-heartedness of our Yorkshire colleagues, while an ocean of ink could not describe the amount of profound enthusiasm with which everything was carried through. A glance at the result of the ballot will provide something for the consideration of those who live under the illusion that the office of Councillor is not a working office. When a seat on the Council is once obtained—and this is particularly true of the London members—it is necessary, and only fair, to support the work of the Association enthusiastically by regularly attending the General Meetings as well as the Council.

Delegates' Expenses.—We have already referred to the commendable action of certain authorities in officially recognising the value of our work by paying the expenses of our Members attending the Easter Schools and other meetings of the Association. The authorities at Brighton and Lewisham were good enough, on the occasion of the 19th Annual Meeting, to send Messrs. Male (Brighton) and Peters (Lewisham) as their delegates. The Association is indebted to these bodies for their public spirited action.

The New Branch.—With the formation of a new Branch in Lancashire and Cheshire, we look forward to the new session with considerable hope. The Branch promises to be a vigorous one in every respect. If our colleagues in the surrounding district, who have not already identified themselves with the movement, could realize the real service they would be rendering their profession, we should be assured of even greater strength and possibilities for the latest acquisition to the membership of the L.A.A. Those who complain that the Association is controlled from one particular district or by one particular set, have the remedy in their own hands entirely. We look to our friends to support what are really their own interests by joining the Association and increasing its power.

MUNICIPAL LIBRARIANSHIP: A Rational View.

(Continued).

To the assistant the problem has assumed such a prominent position of late as almost to lead him to think of it as a new development, and this is probably responsible for some of the passionate and almost revolutionary utterances to which we are occasionally subjected. The problem is not new, but seems to have grown in seriousness with the demand for the efficient assistant, and only by examining it from every point of view can we hope to do anything towards its solution. The assistant's

view we are all familiar with, although it can scarcely be said that we are equally familiar with the conditions from which it arises. The opinion that chief librarians are solely to blame is unreasonable. We must at the very least allow that some of them are conscientious beings, and to charge them with intentionally suppressing our claims is unfair both to them and to ourselves. We know that financial considerations (through a limited rate) are against us, but as the chief is, to a large extent, responsible for the outlay of a library's income, it might be helpful if we take a glance at the question from his point of view.

In the first place we may say that a librarian has two distinct duties—one to his staff, and another to his committee. To the former it includes a great deal which bears on the matter we have under consideration. When an assistant is appointed to a staff the librarian should be perfectly candid as regards the conditions of the service. In addition to what will be expected from the assistant, he should be prepared to say what the assistant may expect in return. He should not allow any assistant to join the staff with an imperfect idea of the conditions and prospects. Speaking from his own experience he would be able to inform a candidate (after a brief enquiry into his capabilities and ambitions) as to the advisability of entering the profession, always insisting on the point that the greatest factor in his success or failure is himself. The financial return, after a certain point, cannot be stated with certainty, but a librarian has no right to assume that when once an assistant has joined his staff his duty in that direction is at an end. Although an assistant may not altogether have joined the staff on the chief's advice, he has, nevertheless, a perfect right to expect him to look after his interests, provided he performs his duties in a suitable manner and continues to make satisfactory progress, but as he grows older, he must begin to look after his own affairs, and it will be well for him to realise that whilst he and his chief have a duty to each other, his chief also has a duty to his committee, which may limit whatever good intentions he may have towards his assistants.

Many articles have appeared at various times on the librarian and his duties, and these have been chiefly considered in relation to the public, to his staff, or to himself. Readers think that his only duty is to look after their welfare; members of the staff are inclined to think that they should be considered first, and sometimes suggest with scorn that the librarian seems to think that his first duty is to himself. His duty to his committee is in danger of being overlooked, especially by assistants and subordinate officers, and yet it is a matter which he must

constantly keep in mind, and which must govern all his actions. Not only are the members of his committee the representatives of the people who are finding the money, but they have, in a majority of cases, to answer to a superior local authority, so that unless a librarian can justify himself and his work before his committee his position is likely to become untenable. A falling issue is a thing to be dreaded, for committee men desire to have been connected with a successful department when next they come up for election, and it is not an unknown action for a librarian to attract readers by adding to his libraries as many new books as possible. This means maintaining or increasing the book-purchase fund at the expense of something else, and often leads to the salaries remaining practically at a standstill. Protests innumerable have been made by assistants, but there can be little improvement so long as librarians are expected to provide more and more on the same limited income. Without pushing the enquiry further in this direction, it is scarcely unfair to say that assistants are far more prone to blame their chiefs in these matters than to consider carefully the state of affairs for themselves.

One of the great needs of the present time is that each assistant should try to realise clearly for himself, or herself, our exact position, ignoring in the meantime ready-made opinions and conclusions. Individually, and as a body, we have nothing to lose, but much to gain, by a more widely developed interest in affairs which so seriously affect us all. The present position cannot possibly last, and as present-day assistants are the librarians of the future, the control of the situation must inevitably, with the passing of time, come into their hands. We may well ask ourselves: Are we equal to the responsibility if it should fall on us? Are we prepared, or likely to be in a position, to improve matters should the opportunity be given to us? The mere desire to do so on moral grounds is of no value unless we can force our arguments by increased efficiency, and only so far as we by our work are able to prove our value to the community shall we get the public to second our claims. Revolution, by trades-union methods, is distasteful to us, so that we are staking all our hopes on improvement by evolution, and our wisest policy, it would seem, is to do all in our power to hasten on this evolution. It is probable that the future will see a return towards the ideal set up by the founders of the public library movement, and a decrease in the recreative side of our work for the more educational. This, of course, belongs to the realms of pure speculation, but recent tendencies, both inside and outside the profession, point to the fact that we shall develop our libraries, in a greater degree than we have done

up to now, on the lines of a true "people's university." This will help to bring about the recognition of libraries as educational centres, and consequently a demand for still more efficient service. Our policy then must be to keep ahead of our opportunities, and as the library movement advances librarians and assistants must advance in a corresponding degree. The maxim that while the grass is growing the horse may starve has in a number of cases proved only too true, and many assistants who could ill be spared have turned their abilities to more lucrative employment.

In some quarters there still remain doubts as to whether we are, as a body, advancing, but even in the few cases where doubts exist they must vanish if the question is considered without prejudice. For some time, and it must continue, the unqualified members of our profession have been a surely decreasing body. A new school is coming into power, and occasional checks are not likely to affect at all the ultimate result, but it behoves every assistant to help forward that result by doing everything possible to raise the present standard of our profession. Everyone can do his share by looking after himself, and taking care that he is not the weak link in the chain. Even the lowest junior can make himself more efficient in his work. The cry that the provincial assistant is handicapped is not worthy of any great consideration. Provincial assistants have little to learn in practical library administration which cannot be learned in their own centres. The number of provincial men now serving as chiefs in the London area should be ample proof that there are as good men in the provinces as anywhere.

It is not my intention to suggest any definite way in which, as individuals, we might set to work. The important point is that each one should be a worker, even if only in general educational subjects which would be useful in other spheres, but I would point out that the endeavours of the few are being seriously handicapped by the apathy of the many. Assistants who have already made their mark may feel that personally they have little to gain, or in fact, they may have something to lose by comparison with qualified juniors, but for general improvement there must be a much more widespread interest among those lower down the scale. We are, admittedly, in an unfortunate position, having to combat on the public side an unfavourable opinion, whilst on the professional side we are faced with the demand for higher efficiency, but by meeting the latter it seems probable that we shall be able to remove the former.

The whole situation is seriously interesting, and full of possibilities. It is impossible to say with any certainty what the future will bring, but it can be largely influenced by the

assistants of the present time. We must take a reasonable view of existing conditions. The power of a chief librarian is strictly limited, and in the majority of cases librarianship is being judged by the standard set in earlier years. Salaries have generally been low and (considering what has been demanded in return) not unreasonably so. With all respect to the men who have raised the public library to its present position—and their services have been considerable—it must be admitted that much of the assistance they required was practically unskilled. There is, however, even now a definite, if slow, advance in operation, whatever we consider the cause. Whether the rise in the science of librarianship is responsible; whether increased efficiency in assistants has compelled an increase in salaries; or whether increased salaries have brought about a demand for increased efficiency, is a question for each one to decide. Undoubtedly they are running on parallel lines, and generally where there is one the other is not far to seek. The crux of the question it would seem is this: if we are content to reach the standard set by our forerunners, and to go no further, then we have no reason to expect anything but the same treatment. If, instead, we are determined, each in his or her own way, to improve our whole professional standing, then we have a reasonable claim individual efficiency, and so in a general way help to uplift our to a return proportionately higher than that of the assistants we are supplanting. Increased personal efficiency must be the starting point. An increase in general efficiency will soon follow, and its effect will be quickly seen in the whole library service. When we are in a position to put forward advanced claims, supported by unquestionable worth and value, the public may be trusted to show a keener appreciation of our services. It is essential that every assistant should realise that he or she is a link in the chain; and that the inefficiency of the individual is directly harmful—not to the individual alone, but to his or her immediate colleagues, and to everyone connected with library work.

NEW MEMBERS.

North Western Branch: Fellow: J. B. Ellison (Oldham Lyceum). **Members:** Miss Ashton (Liverpool Lyceum); T. A. Barnett (Manchester University); J. Cranshaw (Bolton); H. Hamer (Bolton); Miss M. Harding (Bedington); J. A. Merrishaw (Darwen); J. S. Munday (Liverpool University); C. Stott (Rochdale); J. W. Thomas (Blackburn); T. W. Wright (Bolton). **Associates:** Miss M. E. Bell (Stockport); J. Bloor (Farnworth); E. A. Bottomley (Rochdale); Miss M. Boyer (Stockport); W. Chorton (Hyde); J. L. Davison (Bolton); J. Dixon (Blackburn); H. M. Ellison (Bolton); W. Goulding (Bolton); Miss E. Griffiths (Widnes); Miss J. Halfpenny (Eccles); Miss E. M. Hughes (Farnworth); Miss A. Japson (Stockport); Miss D. Mawson (Stockport); Miss D. Nevitt (Eccles); J. Smith (Bolton); J. C. Strangeways (Liverpool Lyceum); Miss P. Swallow (Stockport); Miss J. Tomlinson (Eccles).

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATION : PASS LIST.

SECTION 2. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

17 candidates entered, 16 papers received. 10 passed.

Honours :

Nil.

Merit :

E. G. Tucker, 12a, Winchester Street, S.W.

Pass :

G. R. Bolton, Stoke Newington. P. W. Camplin, Hounslow. Percy Freer, University Library, Birmingham. J. P. Lamb, Birmingham. S. Lamb, Ashton-in-Makerfield. F. J. Patrick, Birmingham. T. Riley, Birmingham. C. Sexton, Cardiff. J. E. Walker, Tottenham.

SECTION 3. CLASSIFICATION.

38 candidates entered, 37 papers received. 25 passed.

Honours :

Nil.

Merit :

C. C. Barnard, Reform Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

Pass :

Miss M. Barnett, Brighton. P. J. Bennett, Bournemouth. W. Blease, Manchester. F. Bowring, Kensington. H. P. Broadhurst, Stockport. Miss O. M. Chevallier, Ladies' College, Cheltenham. J. L. Davison, Bolton. Miss G. M. Glubb, Ladies' College, Cheltenham. H. Goulden, Huddersfield. A. J. Haworth, Fulham. R. Haxby, Leeds. Miss W. C. Hill, London School of Economics. Miss H. M. Hobbs, Ladies' College, Cheltenham. H. Krauss, Croydon. W. McNamee, Ashton-under-Lyne. H. P. Marshall, Smethwick, Staffs. E. Ogden, B.A., Manchester. W. J. Randall, Liverpool. Miss A. C. M. Richmond, British Institute of Social Service, S.W. J. F. Russell, Manchester. F. P. Sinclair, Brentford. W. Slinger, Bolton. Miss D. M. Webb, London School of Economics. H. S. Wilson, Hove.

SECTION 5. LIBRARY HISTORY.

35 candidates entered. 25 passed.

Honours :

Nil.

Merit :

W. Hynes, Eccles, Lancs. J. D. McQuiston, National Library of Ireland.

Pass :

H. Barton, Rawtenstall. E. Bishop, Enfield. A. E. Cummins, Kingston-upon-Thames. Miss A. V. Denton, Islington. H. Edge, Bolton. W. Enderby, Grimsby. J. Fielding, Bolton. Miss F. O. Hadley, Islington. P. C. Hall, Hull. G. V. R. Hayward, Watford. H. Hermann, Lambeth. Miss A. C. Honey, Clonmel Road, Fulham. Miss F. M. Jefferson, Bromley, Kent. Miss A. Jones, Islington. S. McCombie, Canning Town. A. Mould, Birmingham. N. A. Phillips, Hull. J. F. Preece, St. Pancras. K. A. Ryde, Bournemouth. A. E. Sleight, Hull. W. Smith, Bolton. C. Scott, Rochdale. M. J. Wrigley, Stockport.

PROCEEDINGS.

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Official Scribe finds it difficult to place on record in anything like an adequate manner the complete success which attended the whole of the arrangements for the 19th Annual Meeting. Taken as a whole the various meetings and excursions formed a veritable microcosm of an Easter School, and the occasion reminded one very much of such an event. Ten members journeyed from the South, and these were given a most cordial welcome by the President-Elect, Mr. Norman Treliving, on their arrival at Leeds early on Whit-Sunday morning. No cheers greeted the arrival of the faithful band, and no opening note of the famous chant was heard—"Every eye was dim,"—but not with weeping or sadness. After various jokes at the expense of the President-Elect as to his previous record for early rising, particularly on Sunday mornings, the ten, composed of the Misses Duménil (Hackney), and Gilbert (Fulham), and Messrs. Bolton (Stoke Newington), Coutts (Islington), Male (Brighton), Peters (Lewisham), Piper (Brighton), Sunley (Leyton), Thorne (Poplar), and Walker (Tottenham), were joined by a reception party of the Yorkshire Branch, who had evidently persuaded Mr. Treliving to act as an advance guard to test the fierceness of the Southern contingent. The first to arrive were Messrs. Pollitt and Ellison. Various hints were thrown out that others were "on the way," and there soon appeared the Misses Hainsworth and Rhodes, and Messrs. Walker, Ellison, Haxby, and Patrick, the latter smiling as ever, but looking as if he had ventured into the chilly air from more comfortable quarters! Quitting the station, the whole company made its way across the fine City Square, which was scarcely tenanted, save for the chaste damsels surrounding the equestrian statue of the Black Prince. A few minutes' walk and the travellers found themselves in the commodious club room belonging to the Leeds Municipal Officers' Guild. Breakfast was quickly served, the southern members being joined in this pleasant and welcome function by all those who had formed the reception party at the station. After justice had been done to an excellent repast, the members dispersed in various directions. A personal record of the next few hours till lunch time is largely a matter of guess-work. *Normal* people went to sleep for an hour or two, but it is recorded of one energetic member that he continued his journey to Scarborough. As to the identity of the person in question we are unable to say more definitely than

that he was a *male* member. A motor car had been requisitioned by the kind forethought of Mr. John Walker, to convey the ladies to their respective quarters. As announced, arrangements had been made by the following to provide hospitality for those unable to take advantage of a day excursion. The hosts and hostesses were members of the Leeds staff: they were the Misses Hainsworth, Nicholson, Pickering and Rhodes, and Messrs. Ellison, Pollitt, Procter, Strother and Walker, and to each of these the profound thanks of the Association are tendered.

Each vied with the other to make their guests as happy and comfortable as possible, and from reports received, they attained unqualified success. After lunch the members formed into groups, according to the part of Leeds in which they were located, and made excursions into that part of the country surrounding the city nearest them. Some members spent the afternoon in visiting archæological remains under most charming guides, and finished the afternoon in tête-à-tête tea parties. The whole of the members, with the exception of the aforesaid Scarborough enthusiast, assembled in the evening at Knowsthorpe House, the charming residence of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Strother, at whose kind invitation the members attended. The visitors were cordially received, and the time passed very pleasantly in the telling of reminiscences and singing. A member from Birmingham—whose name must be left unrecorded—obliged the company with "Things we have heard before," being a series of stories told at the Easter School. In true eastern fashion our colleague discoursed amidst a circle of enchanted listeners, who were highly amused, judging by the hearty laughter that ensued. Not the least important feature were the vocal efforts rendered by Mrs. Strother and Miss Gilbert, and Messrs. Strother, Harrison, and Treliving. If space permitted we should like to descant on the verve with which Mr. Strother rendered the "Drum Major"; the tenderness exhibited by Mr. Harrison in his conception of the "Devout Lover," and the high plane of humour reached by Mr. Treliving in his amusing rendering of "My 'cello and I." Both the ladies were in excellent voice, and only when a well-merited encore had been rendered, were the company anything like content. Supper having been served, the party regretfully left the shelter of Knowsthorpe House for the homes of the various hosts and hostesses. Some arrived at their quarters as quickly as trams and their tired limbs could carry them, others, with energies awakened by the companionship of certain of the Leeds staff, ventured to walk all the way, arriving home at uncertain hours, but happy withal.

Whit Monday morning dawned bright and clear and full of promise of excellent weather. By 10 a.m., or thereabouts, in respect of a few we regret to say the latter really applied, members assembled at the Central Library, Victoria Square, and from here were conducted under most genial guides to various places of interest in the neighbourhood of Leeds. Some visited the interesting ruins of Kirkstall Abbey, while others found very charming country at Roundhay Park and Adel Moor. The skill of the various guides was tested to secure that their parties should be back at the Great Northern Hotel at 1 p.m., where lunch was served, by the kind invitation of the Yorkshire Branch.

An excellent menu had been prepared and was fully appreciated. Mr. T. W. Hand, City Librarian, Leeds, presided over the function, and was supported (in a figurative sense only) by Messrs. Coutts, Pollitt, Parsons, Strother, McLeannan, Ellison, and other distinguished members of the library profession. The loyal toast having been duly honoured, the President proposed "The Library Association," which was replied to by Mr. Hand, who apologized for the absence of the Lord Mayor, Mr. Butler Wood (Bradford), and others. The "L.A.A." was then proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by Mr. W. Benson Thorne (Poplar). Mr. W. Checketts (Birmingham) proposed "The Yorkshire Branch," which was replied to by Mr. R. McLeannan (Leeds) who referred to the yeoman service rendered by Mr. Pollitt in forwarding the arrangements for the whole of the Annual Meeting. A telegram was read from Mr. H. D. Roberts (Brighton), wishing the meeting success and regretting inability to attend.

Quitting the Hotel, members adjourned to the Town Hall, where the General Meeting was held, at 3.30 p.m., nearly 100 being present, Councillor Joseph Clark, Chairman of the Book Purchasing Sub-Committee, presiding. Councillor Clark extended a very cordial welcome to the Association. He said that many of the people in Leeds took a deep interest in the work of the libraries, but he felt sure that municipalities were like individual employers, they took employees at their own valuation. It was necessary therefore, that librarians should increase their value in the public estimation, and this could only be done by systematic professional training, and close application to work. Professor G. S. Gordon, M.A., Leeds University, then delivered an address, a résumé of which we hope to print in a forthcoming number of the Journal. On the proposition of Mr. H. Grindle (Birmingham), seconded by Mr. E. Male (Brighton) a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Professor Gordon for his stimulating

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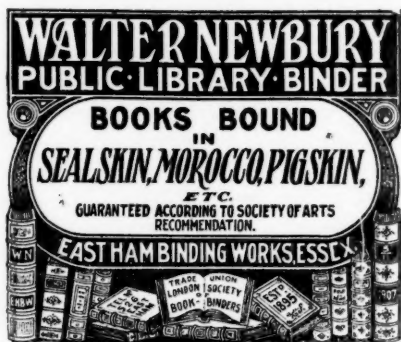
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THE L.A.A. LIBRARY.

Members should note that the L.A.A. Library is open throughout the Summer, and that quiet Summer days lend themselves well to preliminary reading before the more serious Winter reading is undertaken.

At this season the Library is not so much used as in Winter, and intending candidates for the Examinations will now find it possible to obtain all the essential text-books. In Winter the demand for these is often greater than the supply. Borrow them now and so be saved disappointment later.

The Honorary Librarian is Miss Olive E. Clarke, The Central Public Library, 68, Holloway Road, Islington, London, N.

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The Fifth Easter School

As is usual the International Committee gives preliminary notice that it is hoped to hold the Fifth Easter School on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, April 2nd—5th, 1915, in

ANTWERP

**With Visits to BRUSSELS and other
BELGIAN CITIES.**

Suggestions and assistance in promoting the School are invited. A warm invitation is extended to our foreign Members and friends, as well as to all British Members.

W. C. BERWICK SAYERS,

Honorary Secretary.

Public Library, Town Hall, Croydon.

A

Summary of the Law Relating to Public Libraries.

By H. W. FOVARGUE,

Honorary Solicitor to the Library Association.

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address. The President moved, and Miss M. Gilbert (Fulham) seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his presence at the meeting. The resolution was agreed to amidst applause.

By the kind invitation of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Leeds (E. A. Brotherton, Esq., J.P.), tea was then served in his rooms, the function providing excellent opportunities for the discussion of general topics and the exchange of ideas. A joint meeting of the Council and members of the Branch Committees then took place. At 7.0 p.m. the retiring President (Mr. Coutts) presided over the 19th Annual Business Meeting. At the outset he referred to the excellent work accomplished by Messrs. J. Ross and E. A. Peppiette (Liverpool), in their successful endeavours to form a North-Western Branch of the Association, the preliminary Meeting of which was held on the 29th May. In moving the adoption of the Annual Report, Mr. Coutts referred to the increased membership and to the generally healthy condition of the Association. During the year they had lost a real friend and a great librarian in the late Mr. James Duff Brown, and it was very pathetic that the Council should have elected him an Hon. Fellow in the same week that he passed away. Thanks to the services of Mr. W. Geo. Chambers (Hon. Treasurer), the finance of the Association was very satisfactory. Under the heading of the Publications Committee the President alluded to the regrettable illness of Mr. H. G. Sureties (Hon. Editor), and announced that a telegram wishing the Meeting success had been received from him. This showed the Editor's genuine interest in the work of the Association, as did also his work in connection with their Journal. *The Library Assistant* continued to maintain a high standard of excellence. The thanks of the Association were also due to Mr. George R. Bolton (Hon. Assistant Editor), who since April had been responsible for the Journal, and had rendered particularly valuable service in seeing the Annual Report number through the press. They had held another eminently successful Easter School. The Press Committee had been very active in keeping their work before the public eye. With regard to the policy of the Association, they had not had to protest against the appointment of an untrained candidate during the year, although they had had occasion to protest against the treatment meted out to one of their lady members who was said to have worn an unsuitable dress.

The Honorary Secretary seconded the adoption of the Report. Mr. Sayers referred to the formation of the Central Irish Branch at the beginning of this year, and regretted that its Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. H. Evans (National Library) was not present. Their Association had passed resolutions about

the Examination work of the Library Association, which may influence the policy of that body in that respect. The L.A.A. was now a force in the profession, and stood for definite rights and definite treatment. Many libraries were overwhelmed by tradition rather than by librarianship, and the members must prove by ability and knowledge that their claims for recognition were irrefutable. The Report was discussed by Messrs. Cashmore, Grindle, Checketts, Strother, and Piper. Mr. Grindle pointed out that when a provincial member was appointed to a librarianship he had to pay 7s. 6d. if he still wished to belong to the Association. He thought that it would be better to reduce the subscription to 5s. and so provide a better chance of keeping former members. Mr. Checketts said that there was a feeling amongst members of the Midland Branch that the policy of the Association should be aggressive as well as defensive. Mr. Strother suggested the formation of a Vigilance Committee to look after the interests of the profession, particularly with reference to the appointment of untrained men. He expected that such a suggestion would be submitted for consideration by the Council at a future date. The Annual Report was then adopted.

The Hon. Secretary then announced the

RESULT OF THE BALLOT.

President :

Norman Treliving, Leeds.

Vice-President :

Harry G. Sureties, Hornsey.

Honorary Treasurer :

W. Geo. Chambers, Plumstead, Woolwich.

Honorary Secretary :

W. C. Berwick Sayers, Croydon.

Fellows :

W. Ewart Owen, Leamington	121
Hugh Smith, Bishopsgate Institute	115

Not Elected :

Walter S. C. Rae, Fulham	110
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London Representatives :

H. T. Coutts, Islington	...	178
W. B. Thorne, Poplar	...	177
Miss O. E. Clarke, Islington	...	165
G. R. Bolton, Stoke Newington	...	160
Miss M. Gilbert, Fulham	...	131
W. G. Hawkins, Fulham	...	120
J. D. Young, Greenwich	...	116
J. F. Hogg, Bootersea	...	115
C. H. R. Peach, Gray's Inn	...	102
H. R. Peters, Lewisham	...	95

Non-London Representatives :

H. W. Checketts, Birmingham	...	158
W. Pollitt, Leeds	...	158
G. W. Strother, Leeds	...	132
J. Warner, Croydon	...	132
E. Male, Brighton	...	131
W. Morgan, Cardiff	...	127
F. W. C. Pepper, Bolton	...	127
J. Ross, Liverpool	...	123
A. C. Piper, Brighton	...	117
J. E. Walker, Tottenham	...	98

Not Elected :

W. H. Parker, Hackney	...	85	H. G. Steele, Leyton	...	92
R. Cooper, Battersea	...	69			
			H. Fostall, Sunderland,	} Scrutineers.	
			B. J. Frost, East Ham,		
			R. McLeannan, Leeds,		
			C. Nowell, Norwich,		

On taking the Presidential Chair, Mr. NORMAN TRELIVING was accorded a great ovation, the members upstanding and rendering him musical honours. He said that the position was so strange that he almost commenced his remarks, "Mr. President." It was with a deep sense of gratification that the office had come into the provinces. There was a feeling that a line of demarcation exists between provincial members and London. As time was very short the President decided not to deliver a Presidential Address then, but to write it so as to appear in a future issue of *The Library Assistant*.

Mr. Coutts then moved that

Rule 5 be amended to read as follows: "The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Council of twelve London and twelve non-London Members of any grade (not more than two of whom shall be elected from one library district)."

[Note, the Rule read formerly: The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice-President (who shall be a provincial member), Treasurer, Secretary, and Council of two Fellows, ten London and ten non-London Members or Associates (not more than two of whom shall be elected from one library district).]

The motion having been formally seconded by Mr. Bolton, Mr. Pollitt moved, and Mr. W. Procter (Leeds) seconded, the following amendment to the above Motion:—

"That the Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Council of 10 London and 10 Non-London members of any grade (not more than two of whom shall be elected from one Library district), and a delegate appointed by each Branch. The Offices of President and Vice-President to alternate yearly, so as to provide that a London member and a non-London member be in office in the same year."

This resolution gave rise to a very animated and lengthy discussion.

The following spoke in favour of the Amendment:—Messrs. Strother, Cashmore, Grindle, Checketts, Parsons, Ellison, and Pollitt, while those who addressed the meeting in favour of the original Motion were:—Messrs. Thorne, Piper, Miss Gilbert, and Messrs. Sayers, Coutts, and J. E. Walker.

A suggestion by the Hon. Secretary that the word "yearly" in the Amendment should be withdrawn was negatived. After further discussion Mr. Thorne moved that the vote be now taken. The Amendment was put as the substantive Motion, and

declared carried on a show of hands, there being 31 for and 15 against. About 49 did not vote.

The Hon. Secretary moved, and Mr. H. Sunley (Leyton) seconded

That the following clause be prefixed to Rule 4 (b): "Members desiring to resign their membership must give notice in writing before October 31st.; otherwise they will be held responsible for the current subscription."

After some discussion and various amendments had been proposed, Mr. Checketts moved and Mr. F. J. Patrick (Birmingham) seconded: "That the matter be referred back to be dealt with by a special meeting of members called for the purpose." The resolution was agreed to without dissent. The Business Meeting was concluded at 9.15 p.m. by a formal vote of thanks to the retiring Officers and Council, moved by Mr. Cashmore, seconded by Mr. E. Judson (Bradford) and carried unanimously.

From this point, until the Southern party left at 12.45 on Tuesday morning, the time was very pleasantly occupied. The two members from Liverpool had already left for home about 7.30. p.m. At the conclusion of the Business Meeting members were entertained in the Reference Library to an excellent supper, by kind invitation of the Leeds Public Library Staff. After supper the visitors were conducted over the Reference Library, the cataloguing rooms, and the extensive book stores. The time had then almost arrived for the departure of the Midland Branch members, and some of the Yorkshire Branch from Bradford and Huddersfield. These members left about 11 p.m., and were given a rousing send-off. Quite distinct from the proceedings enacted at the arrival of the London contingent on Whit-Sunday, when scarce a sound was heard to break the stillness of the morning air, the station rang with hearty cheers, while the famous chant was sung again and again. Hearty handshakes, and a most affectionate farewell between a London member and the Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire Branch marked the departure of the first contingent. The remaining members then returned to the Club Room of the Municipal Officers, where the rest of the evening and part of the morning was spent. For over an hour the Chairman of the South Coast Branch and a former President of the Yorkshire Branch, persuaded three ivory balls to roll about over a flat table. This they did by the aid of long sticks, called "cues," and a very curious game it was. Now and then the balls disappeared into small string bags at the sides and corners of the table. Others of the party passed the time playing billiards, and this is probably the title of the game which the two distinguished members already referred to were playing. We are not quite sure. Just after midnight the

company left the hospitable roof of the Club and made their way for the last time to the station. A repetition of the scene which took place earlier in the evening marked the departure of the Southern pilgrims. Cordial farewells and very hearty singing continued throughout the whole of the time that the party were entraining, while the cheering was sustained until the train was well out of the station. So ended the 19th Annual Meeting. Remarkable for the brilliant manner in which it was conceived, perhaps the central features of the whole proceedings were the extreme hospitality which was extended to everybody, and the feeling of real welcome and cordial comradeship which existed throughout. No record could be complete without again referring to the wholehearted labours of Messrs. McLeannan and Pollitt. We are pleased to note that at a meeting of the Local Committee at Leeds a silver match-box, suitably inscribed, was presented to Mr. Pollitt, and the following special resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That the best thanks of the Yorkshire Branch be given to Mr. Wm. Pollitt for the able and efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of Hon. Secretary, in connection with the 19th Annual Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association, held at Leeds, June 1st, 1914, and that a copy of this resolution be placed on record."

At the Council on June 24th it was resolved to place on the Minutes a resolution of thanks to the Yorkshire Branch and to Messrs. McLeannan and Pollitt.

MAY MEETING.

The May Meeting, held on Wednesday, the 13th inst., was a great event in the history of the Association. In accordance with the programme members were met at 3 p.m. at the New Inn, Ham Common, by Mr. B. CARTER, Librarian of Kingston-upon-Thames, who presented each with an interesting résumé of the history and contents of Ham House. As quite a large number of members were unable to reach the Inn at the appointed time, Messrs. T. W. POWELL and A. E. CUMMINS kindly waited to conduct the late arrivals to Ham House. After a very pleasant walk the fine Jacobean mansion was reached and the visitors were cordially received by the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston (Councillor and Mrs. C. H. BURGE), who were accompanied by their daughters and the Town Clerk (Mr. H. A. WINSOR). The party were met in the Grand Entrance Hall by the House Steward, under whose able guidance members, accompanied by the civic party, were taken over the various apartments, and thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of inspecting the magnificent collection of original portraits, examples of valuable china and porcelain, and carvings by Grinling Gibbons. After a delightful and absorbing round of inspection, members were entertained to tea in the Entrance Hall, at the kind invitation of the EARL OF DYSART, who, with others of his family, graced the function with their presence. During tea the Mayor and the Hon. Secretary voiced the thanks of the Association to Lord Dysart for the privilege of visiting his historic and charming residence. A tour of the extensive grounds surrounding the mansion was then made, before

leaving the district for Kingston. The Public Library was reached about 6.30, and after inspecting an interesting exhibition of books relating to Kingston, and Ham House in particular, tea and coffee were served at the kind invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston. A meeting of the Council took place at 7 p.m., and at 8 p.m. about 40 members and others assembled in the Lecture Hall, where the business meeting was held, His Worship the Mayor presiding.

Formal business having been transacted, the appointment of two Hon. Auditors was proceeded with, Messrs. E. J. COOPER (Battersea), and J. E. WALKER (Tottenham) being elected. The Chairman then called upon the PRESIDENT, who said that it was known to everybody that a very successful Easter School had been held this year and much of the success had been due to the indefatigable labours of Mr. JOHN WARNER, Hon. Treasurer of the School. Members of the School had therefore decided to present some tangible mark of their esteem in recognition of Mr. Warner's work, and he asked the Mayoress to be good enough to make a presentation to him on their behalf. The Mayoress then handed a silver mounted fountain pen to Mr. Warner, who briefly returned thanks.

In a few well chosen words the Mayor welcomed the Association to Kingston. From the perusal of certain matter placed before him, he learned that the Association had held meetings in various parts of England and the Continent. He congratulated the Association upon the work they had set out to accomplish; pointed out the splendid opportunities library assistants have of influencing the public taste for the best literature; and expressed the pleasure it gave him of receiving such a body of professional men and women. On the proposition of the Hon. Secretary, seconded by Mr. Warner, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded at this stage to the Mayor and Mayoress, who were unable to stay to the end of the meeting. The resolution, which also included well merited thanks to the Authorities and the Library Staff, was carried amidst applause.

Mr. R. A. PEDDIE (St. Bride Foundation), then delivered a lantern lecture on "Printing in the Nineteenth Century." At the outset Mr. Peddie said that from 1450, and for the next 400 years, scarcely any difference was made in the methods used for printing. The hand-screw press was still used; paper was made by hand; and practically the same conditions obtained in the year 1800 as in 1450. During the early part of the 19th century, machinery for the manufacture of paper had to be produced and photography had yet to be invented. To-day all that had been changed, and paper, type, and illustrations were all produced by various machine processes. In the year 1800, printing was entirely done by hand, and all the various processes now used in the production of modern books were the outcome of nineteenth century invention. Mr. Peddie divided his lecture under three headings: Typography, Illustration, and Machinery. Dealing with the first subject he made some interesting remarks on the early types produced by the great firm of Caslon, and the work of William Morris, as illustrated by his work issued from the Kelmescott Press—a slide showing a page of the "Kelmescott Chaucer" being thrown on the screen. The types cut by the Medici Society and the Chiswick Press were also dealt with, mention being made of the folio edition of More's "Utopia," produced by that firm. Coming to book illustration, the early wood engravers were mentioned, particularly Linton, Dalziel and Tenniel. The various photographic processes, such as photogravure and line-block work, were then explained in a non-technical manner. Mr. Peddie concluded his lecture with a short history of the printing press, and in this connection showed a very fine slide of the earliest known illustration of a press, as depicted in the "Dance of Death," 1499. Some excellent slides illustrating the history and development of printing machines were shown, and also the

Linotype and Monotype machines; and the Double Sextuple Press used by the New York Journal. The last machine produces 144,000 copies per hour of a paper of 12 pp., and it can also be adapted to print a paper of more pages at a reduced output.

The electric lantern was in the capable hands of Mr. T. W. POWELL, Sub-Librarian. At the conclusion of the lecture, a hearty vote of thanks to the Lecturer was moved by the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. GEORGE R. BOLTON (Stoke Newington), and carried unanimously. An expression of appreciation of the Town Clerk's help and presence during the day concluded the proceedings.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

The programme kindly arranged by Mr. S. A. PITT, City Librarian, Coventry, for the meeting of the Midland Branch held at Coventry on Wednesday, May 13th, proved of exceptional interest.

Under Mr. Pitt's guidance, a party of over twenty members paid a visit to Messrs. W. W. Curtis, Ltd., Book Designers and Colour Printers, Cheylesmore Press, where Mr. Frank Hewson, one of the directors of the firm, awaited their arrival. Mr. Hewson first conducted the party to the composing room, where the operation of the monotype keyboard and the subsequent casting of the type from the paper record produced thereon excited very considerable interest. In the machine room, which was next visited, various kinds of book work were in process of printing. The machines seen at work included platen and cylinder printing machines, and machines for various separate operations, as ruling, folding, and stitching. Side by side with the last mentioned, an employée was engaged in book sewing by hand. Mr. Hewson very clearly and ably explained the nature and object of the different processes, and finally conducted the party to a corner of the machine room where a special exhibit, showing illustrations and books in various stages of manufacture, had been prepared. The exhibit showed all the stages of printing, commencing with the MS. copy, and, for illustration and ornamental work, the artist's "rough notes," and proceeding to the finished print or coloured sketch. Various kinds of blocks were shown and fully described by Mr. Hewson, an autochrome negative and the blocks produced therefrom being included. A splendid collection of fine art books, including volumes being produced for publication next autumn, formed part of the exhibit, the whole of which, supplemented as it was by full explanations from Mr. Hewson, proved most interesting and instructive.

From Messrs. Curtis's works, the party went on to the Earlsdon Branch, one of Coventry's new open-access Carnegie libraries. Considerable time was spent in going over the building, which is arranged so that one assistant can control lending department, reading room, and juvenile room.

After tea in the City, the evening meeting was commenced at the Central Library. The minutes of the previous meeting having been disposed of, the Chairman, Mr. H. Grindle (Birmingham) moved: That subject to confirmation by the Council the clause of the Branch rules relating to the constitution of the Committee be altered to: "The Committee shall consist of six Fellows, Members or Associates, not more than four of whom shall represent any one library district. The three Officers shall be members of Committee ex-officio." (As at present constituted the Committee consists of four Fellows, Members or Associates, with no limit as to the number from a particular district). The motion was seconded by Mr. H. W. Checketts (Birmingham), and carried unanimously.

MR. J. SIDWELL (Coventry) then read his paper, "Some modern developments and their tendencies." He outlined the scheme for the re-organisation of the Coventry libraries, commenced by Mr. Pitt on his appointment as City Librarian in 1908, and still being carried on. Open-access had been introduced and was greatly appreciated by the public. The Trustees of certain local charities had been approached and handsome grants obtained from them for the purchase of technical books, a class of literature greatly in demand in Coventry. Specially compiled annotated lists of these books were sent to all the important factories, with a request for further suggestions. A decline had taken place in the issue of fiction in Coventry, which Mr. Sidwell attributed to the adoption of the three ticket system—one ticket only being available for fiction—careful book selection, and full annotation of non-fictional works in the catalogue. Considerable extension of work with children had taken place, separate juvenile departments and school libraries being established and the financial co-operation of the local Education Committee obtained in the purchase of books. Fines for overdue books have been reduced by one half in the children's departments, the innovation proving entirely successful. Special reading lists for the use of children and their teachers have been compiled. Mr. Sidwell went on to give a comprehensive description of the new branch libraries and their organisation. The stock for all three branches was catalogued at the central library, time being saved and uniformity of entry secured by the use of a triple perforated catalogue slip and carbon paper. Technical literature had been selected with a view to the special requirements of each locality. Tickets are available at all the libraries and an exchange service has been arranged for books other than fiction, which is greatly facilitated by the telephonic communication which exists between the branches and the central. Mr. Sidwell gave a description of local photographic survey, which is stored at the central library, and concluded by mentioning the extension of borrowing facilities which had been granted to borrowers leaving the city on holiday. Such readers are allowed twice the usual number of books and may keep them twice as long as usual. It was not yet possible to express an opinion on the value of the innovation.

A vigorous discussion followed, in which Messrs. Checketts, Riley, Fenley, Cashmore, and Grindle took part, and a cordial vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Sidwell for his paper.

A further paper was read by MR. DUNCAN GRAY (Coventry), on "Modern Book Illustration." It is impossible to speak too highly of the comprehensiveness of the paper and of the clear and concise manner in which the information it contained was conveyed. Commencing with some historical remarks, Mr. Gray went on to give a full account of the various "process" methods now in use. He described at length the production of relief blocks in zinc etching and half tone, and also by the three colour process; intaglio blocks as exemplified in the photogravure; and planographic plates of various kinds, such as collotype and carbongravure. He explained the varying results which could be obtained from them by using papers with different surfaces, as well as the manipulations which are possible in printing. Specimens of blocks and illustrations were passed round and rendered useful service in supplementing the information contained in the paper. Mr. Gray was very warmly thanked, much admiration of his wide knowledge of the subject being expressed.

The proceedings terminated with votes of thanks to Mr. Pitt, Mr. Sidwell, and Messrs. Curtis, Ltd., for their kind assistance in arranging what had proved to be a most successful and interesting meeting.

PRELIMINARY MEETING OF THE NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

A meeting of assistant librarians of Lancashire and Cheshire was recently held, by kind invitation of Mr. JAMES HUTT, M.A., in the Liverpool Library, Bold Street, Liverpool, with the object of forming a North-Western Branch of the Library Assistants' Association.

There was a large attendance of assistants representative of the two counties, including Messrs. W. Hynes (Eccles), M. J. Wrigley (Stockport), F. W. C. Pepper (Bolton), E. C. Peppiette (Liverpool University), E. C. Wickens, and A. H. Edwards (Liverpool), and the Misses M. Ashton (Liverpool Lyceum), E. Griffiths (Widnes), and H. M. Williams (Liverpool).

Mr. Hutt, who presided with distinction throughout the evening, welcomed the visitors to the Liverpool Library, and stated that the Institution was founded over 150 years ago, and claimed to be the oldest proprietary circulating library in Europe. He commended the practice of visiting non-municipal as well as public libraries, as assistant librarians in all libraries had much to learn from each, and it was desirable to cultivate a fraternal spirit. The movement to form a North-Western Branch of the Library Assistants' Association had his warmest support, for, as Hon. Sec. of the North-Western Branch of the Library Association, he could speak from experience of the advantages of belonging to a national association.

Mr. JAMES ROSS, Librarian, Walton and Fazakerley Library, Liverpool, opened the proceedings with an explanation of the objects of the meeting, and the policy of the Library Assistants' Association, and mentioned that it would meet the demands of those assistants who had frequently appealed for such an organisation. As a national association it deserved the support of every thoughtful assistant; it took a broad outlook upon the profession, and was in no way antagonistic to any existing local association. He detailed the policy of the Association in regard to its branches, and the work it had accomplished for the benefit of the assistant, and urged assistants in the North-West district to do everything in their power to further the cause, at a moment when a united front was so urgently necessary.

After a lengthy discussion, in which Messrs. Hynes, Wrigley, Peppiette, Wickens and Edwards joined, it was resolved to apply to the Council of the Library Assistants' Association for constitution as a Branch.

Mr. F. W. C. PEPPER (Bolton) read a well constructed and illuminating paper on "Classification by form." It is hoped to publish the paper in a forthcoming number of the Journal.

Mr. ERIC A. PEPIETTE (Liverpool University), followed with "Some reflections on modern librarianship." He touched briefly upon the rise of modern public librarianship, and showed how, with the growth of libraries, came corresponding growth and difficulties for the librarian. The librarian now claimed a great place for his work in the educational world: he considered the public library as the university of the people, where public taste in literature was guided, desire for knowledge instilled, and the work of research aided. Yet in spite of the long and special training necessary, and the increased public utility of the librarian, librarianship as a profession remained unrecognised. Two things were hindering the profession from entering into its own: (1) Presence of untrained and inefficient persons in the library world; (2) Lack of complete organisation of the profession. As a matter of public economy the inefficient librarian should be placed upon the retired list, and all efforts should be bent upon organising the profession. When these two things were accomplished librarians would be in a position to formulate and carry out a policy whereby public opinion might be brought to recognise them at their proper

value. The future depended to a great extent upon the assistant who was the future librarian.

At the election of Officers and Committee the following were appointed:—Hon. President: James Hutt, M.A. (Lyceum); Chairman: F. W. C. Pepper (Bolton); Hon. Treasurer: Maurice J. Wrigley (Stockport); Hon. Secretary: James Ross (Liverpool). Committee: Messrs. W. Hynes (Eccles); J. Hindle (Blackburn); E. A. Peppiette (Liverpool University); J. H. Shaw (Bury); and the Misses M. Ashton (Liverpool Lyceum); and E. Griffiths (Widnes).

Votes of thanks were enthusiastically accorded to Mr. Hutt for receiving the members, and for presiding; to the readers of papers; and to Mr. Ross for his energetic work in arranging the meeting.

WEDDINGS.

SHARP—PAXTON.—Mr. Henry A. Sharp was married to Miss K. M. Paxton on Saturday, June 7th, at St. Paul's Church, South Kensington. Mr. and Mrs. Sharp have both been most acceptable members of our Easter Schools, and Mr. Sharp has been for two successive years winner of the First MacAlister Prizes. Our best wishes go to the newly-married couple.

TRELIVING—WILSON.—Mr. Norman Treliving, President of the L.A.A., and Miss H. Wilson, were married at Trinity Congregational Church, Leeds, on Wednesday, 24th June. Both the bride and bridegroom attended the Easter School at Holland. The honeymoon is being spent in the Lake District.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

***ATKINSON, W. H.**, Public Library, Bradford, has been appointed Librarian, Public Library, Shipley. The other selected candidates were Messrs. *Goulden (Huddersfield), *Helliwell (Rochdale), and Spencer (Bingley).

***DENTON, A.**, Assistant, Central Lending, Bradford, promoted to Librarianship of Girlington Branch.

***FOX, R. W.**, Librarian, Girlington Branch, Bradford, promoted to Librarianship of Manchester Road Branch.

***HALL, Bert**, Senior Assistant, West Hartlepool Public Library, has been appointed Librarian of The Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland, Glasgow.

The other selected candidates were: Messrs. Cohen (Glasgow Technical College) and Hutchinson (Mitchell Library).

TOWNEND, Harry, Librarian and Curator, Bury, has been appointed Director and Curator of the Aberdeen Art Gallery.

*Members, L.A.A.